Steps to Eradicate Poverty and Unemployment

1541. SHRI RAJU PARMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any concrete steps for removing poverty and unemployment by the year 2020;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would encourage NGOs and private sector to remove unemployment and poverty in the country by the year 2020; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Report of the Committee on "India Vision-2020" brought out by the Planning Commission visualizes that the compounded effect of achieving targeted annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of 8.5 to 9 per cent over the next twenty years would result in quadrupling of the real per capita income and almost eliminating the percentage of Indians living below the poverty line.

(b) The Government is following a three-pronged approach to remove poverty and unemployment in the country by way of: (i) acceleration of economic growth, (ii) human and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the basic minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc; and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and asset-building for the poor. A number of schemes like Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and Rural Housing—Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) and National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) have been launched by the Government to improve the conditions of the people living below the poverty line in rural and urban areas.

(c) Yes, Sir. Removal of poverty in the country will require full involvement of all segments of the economy, including *inter-alia*, NGOs and the private sector.

(d) Does not arise.